Reduction of seats in Veer Surendra Sahay Medical College, Sambalpur

†3741. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of seats meant for the students are being reduced in Veer Surendra Sahay Sambalpur Medical College located in Burla, in district of Orissa;

(b) whether it has resulted in utter discontentment among the people;

(c) if so, the facts thereof;

(d) whether the State Government has submitted any memorandum or letter of request to the Centre for not reducing the number of seats; and

(e) whether Centre would take any steps for not to reduce the number of seats in this famous college of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e) The Centre Government has granted permission for the admission of 3rd batch of MBBS students for the increased intake from 107 to 150 for academic year 2009-10 at Veer Surendra Sahay Medical College, Burla, Orissa.

Under five mortality figures

3742. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under five mortality figures are considered critical indicators of children's well being;

(b) if so, what is India's rating in this regard; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that India's ranking slid this year from 52 in 2006 to 72 deaths per 1000 live births?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Globally the under - 5 mortality rate is a leading indicator of the level of child health and overall development in a country.

(b) and (c) According to UNICEF's State of World's Children, 2009 Report, the under five mortality for India for the year 2007 is 72 per 1000 live births and is placed at rank 49. According to the UNICEF's Report 2008, its under five mortality was 76 per 1000 live births for the year 2006 and was placed at rank 49 in descending order with reference to the under five mortality rate.

Neo-natal deaths

3743. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the current rate of neo-natal deaths in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that 40 per cent of the children die in the first week itself; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.